

Appl. No. : 10/621,010
Filed : July 15, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants cancels Claims 3, 6, 7, 23, 27-29, and 40, and amends Claims 8-17, 21, 34, 36, 37, and 41, as shown in the foregoing Amendments to the Claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge Examiner's indication in paragraph 5 of the Office Action that Claims 21, 24-26, 30-38, 41, and 42 are allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 21, 24-26, 30-38, 41, and 42 may also be patentable for reasons other than those stated in the Office Action.

Allowable dependent Claims 21, 34, 36, 37, and 41 have been re-written as independent claims including all the limitations of Claim 6, from which they previously depended.

Claim Rejections

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected Claims 3, 6, 28, 29, and 40 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,616,821. Examiner rejected Claims 6-17, 23, 27-29, and 40 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,005,049.

Claims 8-17 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 6, 7, 23, 27-29, and 40 have been canceled.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication includes alterations to the claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or

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any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

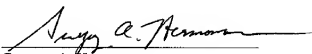
The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain of if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicants attorney in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 31, 2008

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